

SHARP KNIFE USED TO SLAY MRS. MILLS

Doctor Discredits Claim That Garden Shears Was Weapon

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prise at such procedure and asked detailed questions. Hegeman pleaded that he had had no chance to consult his notes. He had turned them over to the late Prosecutor Beekman, he said.

Hegeman admitted, however, that he had included nothing in the notes as to whether the tongue was missing or not.

Q. What do you say now under oath as to the tongue? A. My opinion or knowledge?

Q. Your knowledge. A. I don't know.

Dr. Hegeman's autopsy, he said, was made on September 29, the body of Mrs. Mills being exhumed for the purpose fifteen days after she was killed.

Tongue Not Missing Then

Senator Case took the witness. Q. What was your opinion as to whether the tongue was missing at the time of your autopsy? A. My opinion is it probably was NOT.

Hegeman agreed with Dr. Schultze that the head of the choir

Saw Victim



AMELIA HARKINS

singer was practically severed from her body.

The witness is a young doctor and he apparently was very nervous as Case asked him for various medical opinions. Dr. Hegeman was seated directly facing the veteran Schultze.

Q. What have you to say about the wound being made by a sharp knife? A. It would have to be very sharp and applied with much pressure.

Case evidently was seeking to dissipate the old report that the throat slashing was done by a pair of pruning or garden shears.

Dr. Cronk Takes Stand

Dr. E. I. Cronk, New Brunswick health officer, followed Dr. Hegeman.

He was one of the physicians present at Dr. Hegeman's autopsy. A nervous, sallow little man, with gray hair plastered down the middle, Cronk blinked and fidgeted as he waited for Simpson to question him.

Cronk leaned forward in the stand and began talking in a low, deep voice. He slapped furiously at a persistent fly.

Dr. Cronk admitted having viewed the choir singer's body after Dr. William H. Long had examined it. He said he had opened the incision Long had made.

Q. Who requested you to open the abdomen? A. No one.

Q. Was it at the request of her husband? A. It was not.

Q. Did Hubbard (undertaker) tell you that Senator Florence said that Mrs. Hall wanted you to see if she was pregnant, or any organs were missing?

Justice Parker interrupted to

press the witness to give a reason for his actions in the undertaker's parlor.

"There was concealed evidence in the head of Mrs. Mills. There were three bullet wounds in the head. They were of entrance but not of exit. I knew then the bullets could be found in her brain," Cronk replied.

He then admitted that Senator Florence, Mrs. Hall's lawyer, telephoned to Hubbard while he was at the undertaking establishment,



J. A. Faurot



Dr. O. Schultze

and that his examination followed.

Q. Were you paid for that examination? A. No.

Q. Have you ever been physician to any of these defendants? A. No.

Q. You didn't hear what Senator Florence said over the 'phone? A. No.

Simpson again demanded that Cronk tell why he opened the abdomen.

"To look for concealed evidence, to see if any organs were missing," was the answer.

Q. You did it also to see if she was pregnant? A. Yes.

Wasn't Pregnant

Senator Case then asked:—

"Was there pregnancy?"

The answer was "No."

Dr. Cronk, who is not a surgeon, insisted that he had made his examination only on Hubbard's request, and that the undertaker had not said Senator Florence had requested it. It occurred, he said, on the Sunday after the bodies were found.

Senator Case then went into the autopsy Dr. Hegeman performed. Cronk said that his only duty was to take down Hegeman's notes.

Simpson took his witness on re-direct examination.

Q. You say you were asked to identify Mrs. Mills's body. A. Yes.

Q. Didn't you know they had been identified and there was no need of your identification? A. Well, I didn't know at that time they had been formally identified.

In answer to the court, the witness said he did not exam-

ine Mrs. Mills's body in his capacity as health officer.

Q. (By Simpson). Were you called as a witness before the first grand jury? A. Yes, I was there.

Wrangle Over Question

"What reason did you as health officer of Middlesex county look for concealed evidence of a murder committed in Somerset county?" Simpson asked after Case had got

the witness to say his position influenced his examination.

Case was on his feet protesting there was no proof that the murder took place in Somerset county.

"If she wasn't murdered there, what happened? Did some one invite her out for a dance?" snapped Simpson. "Of course, if it is the plan of the defense to contend they were murdered elsewhere and their bodies brought

there, we will deal with that later."

Court recessed at that point.

Dr. Cronk resumed the stand after recess.

Simpson read Dr. Cronk's testimony before the 1922 grand jury. Then he asked:—

"Does that refresh your memory?"

The grand jury testimony was to the effect that Dr. Cronk opened

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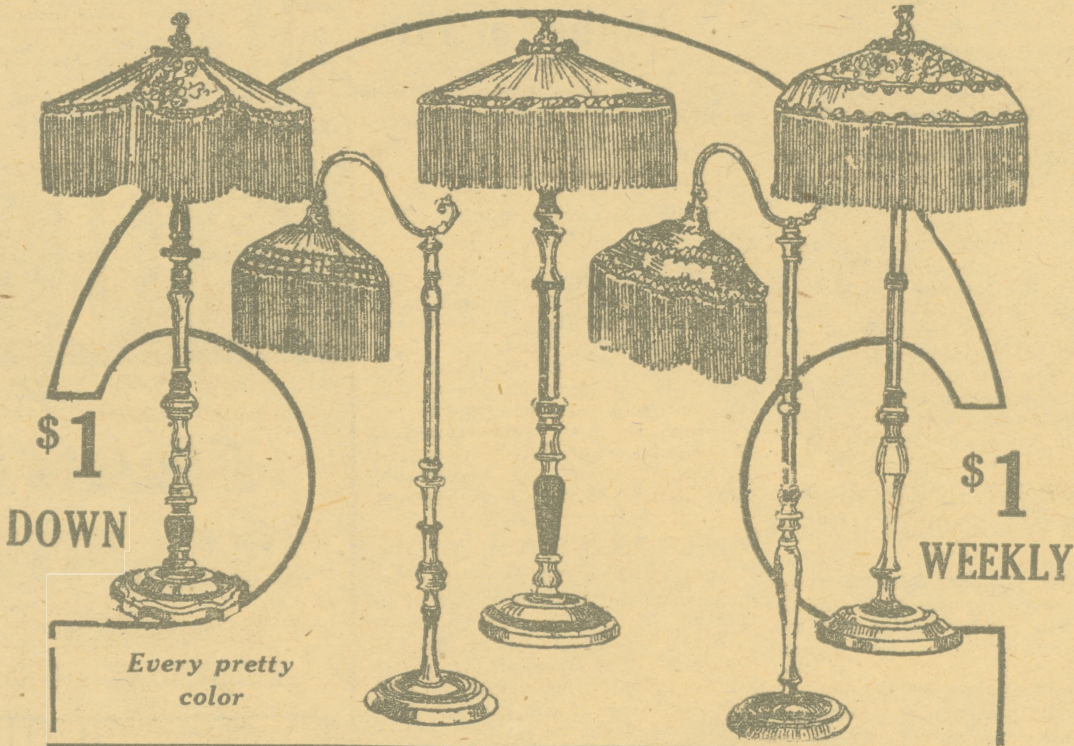
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